



## **Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee**

Date: May 17, 2023.

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Via Zoom Conference.

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendees:**

- Executive Committee: Christopher Tonkin. (Chair), Adam MacNeill., Linda Epstein., Muris Kobaslija., Jack Johnson., Doug Mayo-Wells., Scott Smith (TAC liaison).
- Town of Arlington: John Alessi (Senior Transportation Planner).
- Members of the Public: Len Greenberg.

#### **1. Greetings and introductions, ground rules for online meetings.**

Christopher Tonkin advises that the meeting is held remotely related to extension of COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency. Tonkin notifies attendees that Scott Smith is taking minutes; the meeting is being recorded for the purposes of verifying the minutes; and the recording will be deleted after the minutes are approved. Tonkin confirms the committee members and others in attendance for the meeting.

#### **2. Approval of outstanding meeting from previous meetings.**

Doug Mayo-Wells struck an incorrect number of parking spaces from the April record.

**ABAC voted to approve the April 19 minutes and notes from May 13 informal gathering with quorum present as amended. Proposed by Chris Tonkin, seconded by Scott Smith, carried unanimously.**

#### **3. Introduction and update from new Senior Transportation Planner, John Alessi.**

Previously transportation planner for Malden for 1.5 years, Sustainable mobility coordinator in MassDOT secretary's office.

#### **4. Report from COBWEB Officer.**

Not presented.

#### **5. Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Report.**

Reconstruction work on the Minuteman Bikeway wooden foot/bike bridge over Alewife creek is still out for bid. This has been a safety hazard for some time, it will be good to get it repaired. However ABAC has concerns about notifying bikeway users of the closure and managing bike and pedestrian traffic while repairs are underway.

#### **6. Debrief of Saturday May 13, 2023 Meeting.**

ABAC will try every third meeting having an in-person component for the remainder of 2023, starting with July 19. (This will require an in-person quorum of committee members.)

ABAC discussed progress over the past few years. We have completed planning projects without funding for execution. Some elements of plans may be infeasible, such as widening the Bikeway (due to expense, right-of-way issues). The connection from the

Mystic River to the Bikeway should be more feasible in the short term.

#### **7. ABAC's Remaining Budget and Future Expenditures.**

ABAC received an unsolicited donation earmarked for educational purposes. ABAC has been advised that this money needs to be committed. We've been attempting to work with schools in town to fund some bike safety training (in coordination with MassBike), but have not yet identified a school that wants to participate. Muris Kobalija says he will contact Hardy School. Christopher Tonkin thinks the Arlington Education Foundation may be able to assist. The committee thinks middle school children may benefit most.

Jack Johnson suggests that improving Bikeway signage could fall within the spirit of the original donation (education residents throughout Town).

#### **8. Lexington's Signage Plans and Bedford's Support.**

Lexington's Select Board has approved new signage for their section of the Bikeway (which is the longest). ABAC believes that the Bikeway should be a uniform experience for riders and other users—not feel like 3 bikeways that happen to connect. ABAC therefore perceives uniformity of signage as a benefit. However, it may be more difficult to fund signage for Arlington's section of the Bikeway. (It is possible that Lexington may invest in sign-making equipment, which would simplify Arlington's participation).

Christopher Tonkin notes that the 3 bikeway communities (Arlington, Lexington,

Bedford) hold regular meetings to coordinate on Bikeway issues (such as safety/speed advisories or limits).

#### **9. MBTA Communities new zoning requirements.**

Christopher Tonkin will talk to Phil Goff (of EALS, Everywhere Arlington Liveable Streets) to arrange for a presentation to ABAC on the details.

#### **10. Bike-Arlington Tour Sunday May 21, 2023.**

Meet at 9:30 at Jefferson Cutter House/Cyrus Dallin Museum. ABAC members road-tested the route on 5/13.

#### **11. Upcoming meeting dates for 2023.**

ABAC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. July 19 (in person), John will book the room at Town Hall. August 16 (brief meeting for Town Day planning), September 20 October 18, November 15, December 20.

Using Town Hall Annex 1st Floor Conference Room for future in-person meetings.

ABAC Chair to be absent for September meeting.

#### **12. Any other business.**

John Alessi advises that he has taken over Complete Streets prioritization plan updates, with public presentation in mid-June. Arlington is negotiating with BlueBikes, with the expectation of adding 2 additional stations, likely near the High School, and another near Mill Street. He is meeting with DCR and the Mystic River Watershed Association to get up to speed on that (including the \$1M Federal earmark).

Doug Mayo-Wells brings up the issue of ABAC's social media presence — we did not have a volunteer to manage the Twitter/Facebook accounts, and they have not had a lot of engagement. But Twitter has announced that they will be terminating inactive accounts, so if we do want to keep it available for potential future use we may want to at least log in once in a while.

Scott Smith mentions Town Day. The Committee agrees that the shared booth between ABAC and TAC last year worked well.

#### **13. Adjourn.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.